JERRY VEHAUN ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

INTERVIEWEE	Jerry Vehaun
INTERVIEWER AND TRANSCRIBER	Pat Fitzpatrick
INTERVIEW DATE	March 28, 2017
LOCATION	Woodfin Town Hall
LENGTH	Approximately one hour

Pat Fitzpatrick: It's March 28th, about 3:30 in the afternoon and I'm at the Woodfin Town Hall with Jerry Vehaun. I've known Jerry for some years, but not more than "Howdy". Where did you grow up?

Jerry Vehaun: I grew up in Woodfin, right in the middle of where I-26 is now, on Woodfin Avenue, which is maybe a quarter of a mile from where we are right now.

PF: Because I live this side of Weaverville, I feel like Woodfin is North Asheville, which I guess to some it ends-- I had a woman on Hillside ask me recently, you know, "It's outside the city, sort of. It's not downtown. Is that considered North Asheville". That is the beginning, you know. Some don't consider Woodfin, it ends at this end of Beaver Lake, I guess, technically?

JV: Yeah.

PF: But if you grew up right here, you had to go through this whole avenue here just to get anywhere.

JV: You either had to go, if you went to Asheville, you had to go up Merrimon Avenue or up Broadway. Or Riverside Drive.

PF: How did you get over to there from here before-- Well, that's this side of the--

JV: Well, you go out here and you go out Lakeshore Drive to get to Merrimon, or go down here to get on Weaverville Highway, and go in or go right down here to Riverside Drive and go up Broadway.

PF: It's hard for me sometimes, like downtown, anywhere the highway goes through, to picture. It would have been a valley or a gully or something there to cross. I'm sure they didn't have bridges then, did they, across those places?

JV: No, when they built the, what they called the cross-town expressway at the time, which is I-240 now, they just had the streets that went through there.

PF: Tell me about when you grew up, what your activities were and what that was like.

JV: Well, of course, when I grew up, we didn't have Little League teams on every corner like they have now. We had some, for example, in the summer, we didn't have any swimming pools other than the Recreation Park pool. That was there, and a couple of pools inside the City of Asheville. The schools, primarily through the YMCA, had baseball teams in the summer for kids. And they had what they called, the program they called the Gra-Y and it was for elementary school kids, up through the eighth grade. And that's what we did, you know, as far as activity in the summer.

PF: Did you grow up in the fifties?

JV: I grew up, I was born in 1943, so I really grew up, I guess you'd say, in the fifties. I graduated high school in 1961. So in the fifties, of course, that's when I was, you know, really growing up. Went to school at Woodfin School, which was a high school then. Grades one through twelve,

that's before they consolidated everything into six districts that they have today.

PF: And that's the school right here beside the Town Hall?

JV: Right here next to the Town Hall. They had two buildings there that were built back in the twenties. One of them was a elementary school building. The other was a high school building.

PF: What changes have you seen in the North Asheville area, which I assume you went through to get to Asheville or did your shopping along there?

JV: I remember UNCA was a dairy farm. And then it was abandoned and it set there probably several years. And that was Asheville-Biltmore Junior College and I was there the first two years they were on that campus. And the first year they had an administration building, which is still there. And the first part of the science building. They've added on to it. That was it. And they had more square footage in those two buildings than they had in everything up on Town Mountain where they moved from. It's interesting, that first year you were either in the dust, the roads weren't paved, or in mud, depending on the weather. Anyway, that was a dairy farm.

PF: Do you know who owned that dairy farm?

JV: No, I don't. I don't recall the name on that. And then we had, if you came on out into Woodfin, down on Beaverdam Creek, which is down this way, where Asheville's last landfill was, that was another farm. They raised chickens down there and that was the Rhodes farm. They had some cattle on it, but it stretched all the way from Newbridge down to Riverside Drive where MSD is. So they had a lot of acreage in there. And then, of course, there wasn't anything on Reynolds Mountain, at the time, other than

the Reynolds house, which is still up there. And when we used to walk up there, hike up there, on the weekends or whatever, go up on top of the mountain. They had a tower that's up there that was there then.

PF: A fire tower?

JV: It was just a lookout tower that Senator Reynolds had built for his daughter. And around Beaver Lake, of course, a lot of the houses you can tell were there, you know, back in the fifties--forties and fifties, built in the forest, I guess. But there wasn't near as many as what's there today. And when you went into Asheville, if you went up Broadway, there were several buildings up through there that's not there anymore, particularly when you get to Five Points and on up. And I know, up on, when you got up there where Broadway and Lexington Avenue split, Lexington Avenue had the farmer's market, which was a forerunner of the farmer's market we've got today, but that's where they sold all the produce. And Asheville was a--some of it was pretty rough, back in the fifties. Had a lot of bars up there that was pretty rough. And, of course, then they had a lot of the nightclubs that were around, like the Sky Club and Chez Paul and The Patio. They were real nice supper clubs, you know.

PF: I've heard of the other two but not The Patio.

JV: Yeah, The Patio was down there where, towards South Tunnel Road. And Chez Paul was out here on Merrimon Avenue where Ingles is now. And Margaret's Supper Club was another one, and it was out here on the Weaverville Highway, kind of up on the hill above Jimmy's Automotive is. It set up there. Had some of the best steak you ever ate. But, you know, just slowly kept growing and growing and people added different businesses, commercial property and so forth.

PF: Now, two people spoke of a trailer park, a big trailer park they said was where Steinmart is now.

JV: There was one there. I remember it. I don't remember the name of it.

PF: Other people who lived nearby don't remember it at all, but that wasn't their focus, I guess.

JV: Yeah, there was one that was right there. I think you turned into it where that bank is now. But that trailer park was right there. I remember when they built where Steinmart is and all of that stuff. There's a lot of houses up through there. Once you got to there, that was called Grace. If you hear people refer to Grace, that's where that was. If you got out that far, you were out of town. Really, when you got out there to-- Do you know where Woolsey Dip is? When you got that far, you were out of town, and from there on it started to get less and less populated. Up there where Jones School is, that was Grace School. And that was at one time an elementary and a high school. And then if you went up Beaverdam, you were out in the country, when you went up Beaverdam.

PF: So there were still farms out in Beaverdam?

JV: Yeah, Stradleys had a farm up there and I can't remember some of the other names, but several people had farms up there.

PF: One farm that came up, and they asked me more about it at the library, the Goodman farm, which was right down here, apparently, where the intersection is.

JV: Goodman--okay, which intersection are you talking about?

PF: Like where Reece's Tire is, I think, where they have a big play field there by a church.

JV: Oh, yeah. Yeah. I don't remember that being called Goodman farm.

PF: Where is Woodside? Apparently they have a little stone house they had on the farm was at Woodside.

JV: I don't know. I'm not familiar with that. But there where Newbridge Church is, Asheville Outdoor Theater was there for many years.

PF: In that building? That same building?

JV: It was on that piece of property there. They had a big outdoor movie theater and that's who Newbridge bought the property from, whoever owned that theater.

PF: I never heard of that. When we came, that church there was an awning place. You could have any kind of awning made there.

JV: Yeah, that place-- That church, that was Newbridge Church. And then they moved up where they are now, up there on Elkwood Avenue. That church, my grandmother and grandfather on my mother's side were both charter members of that church.

PF: What was their names?

JV: There last name was Lominac. That Grace Fuel Company has always been, it was Grace Coal Company then. But I can remember growing up, you know, you'd see the steam engine bring the coal cars up there coming from downtown. There was, where Craggy Bridge is, there was another bridge right below that, to the north, the older bridge, and then right below that you can still see the pillars in the river. There was a trestle went across there. And that's where the railroad came across to come out to Newbridge and that was part of the old Asheville Street Car Line. And Asheville Street Car Line, initially it went to Weaverville, ran where the Weaverville Highway is now. Came right down through the middle of

Beaver Lake and then got up there on the road bed where the Weaverville Highway is and went all the way to Weaverville.

PF: That's always a surprise to people when they first find that out, that moved in here in the last twenty years especially. One couple was talking about when the lake, they could remember when the lake was emptied and there were big turtles in there. And they could walk on the bottom of the lake. And that's when they could see the tracks.

JV: And there's a bridge out there, kind of in the deepest part of it, I guess. It was there, a little small bridge that the tracks went across.

PF: What are your first memories, when you think back, your earliest memories of this area? Around your home place or--

JV: Well, growing up, you know, like I say, I was raised out here right in the middle where the four-lane is now, but I remember like on the weekend it was a big thrill, you'd always get on the bus and go to town, go to a movie. Watch either a serial like Captain Marvel or something like that. Or a Western or whatever it was. And you could go see the movie at the State Theater, for example, which was there on the corner of Lexington and Patton Avenue. It would cost you nine cents to get in, you know, and you could sit there and watch it two or three times, if you wanted to, you know. It would cost you like 15 cents to get on the bus, ride the Craggy bus. And it was owned by Ralph Young, Sr., Ralph Young Jr.'s dad, who owns it now.

PF: His brother, John Young, was the grandfather on the other side of our youngest son's children. If that makes sense. I'm not Southern, so I don't know how I expressed that. But he died about ten years ago and it was a huge loss to our whole family.

JV: I can remember when Ralph would drive a bus, you know, they ran every 30 minutes, from 6 o'clock in the morning till midnight. So they

had real good bus service. If you want to go to Weaverville, you could get on the bus and go to Weaverville, you could go to Leicester, or wherever you wanted to go.

PF: That's a change. What about hired help? Did people up in this end, probably didn't have it as much? Because the people in Beaver Lake have been saying everybody had hired help in the house.

JV: Very few people had hired help. Because Woodfin was a blue collar community, for the most part. My dad and my granddad owned a furniture store on Biltmore Avenue when I was growing up, but for the most part, you know, everybody was just blue collar. They was hard-working people. Cotton mill, Martel Mills down there where Riverside Business Park is, and it was running. And there was a mill village that's still there.

PF: But those are individually owned now? The mill village, or the houses?

JV: Yeah, they sold-- Burlington bought Martel out back in the fifties and that's when they sold those houses to whoever was living in them. And most of them are still there. They tore very few of them down. That's kind of, I guess, Woodfin's historic district.

PF: Yeah, it really is. That's a good thing. So for your social life, I guess that's what you described, the going to town and that type of thing.

JV: Yeah, you'd go to town and they'd have-- A lot of these smaller circuses would come through here in the summertime. They'd be-- I've been to the circus up there where the brewery is now, in the River Arts District. There was a flat piece of ground right there where that was. And they'd have these smaller circuses there. Then they'd have them up on what they called Carrier Field, which was, you know, up on Amboy Road. They

had Ringling Brothers, they'd go up there, the bigger ones. And I remember when Carrier Field had airplanes on it.

PF: Now, another thing that came up back a ways in some research was a military place.

JV: That was Bingham School.

PF: Right along here?

JV: Bingham School was up where the Board of Education administrative offices are now.

PF: Oh, okay. Over-- Now, that became a big factory.

JV: That was Square D.

PF: Yes. When we moved here it was Square D.

JV: Yeah.

PF: And that was a military place?

JV: That was Bingham Military School, and that was back in, I think back in the twenties and maybe thirties. I remember some of the buildings that were there when Square D built their second plant, that's where the Board of Education is now, the newer Square D building. They still had a lot of their barracks in there, and the Binghams' home. It was all run down but it was still, I remember it still being there.

PF: I didn't know about the school.

JV: And the land along the river from where the trestle is, in the River Arts District, all the way to Pearson Bridge, was just kind of swampy land, and that was Asheville Landfill or years and years till they filled it all in.

PF: Now, when you were growing up, was this Pearson house we call Richmond Hill now, was that a going thing? Did they still live there?

JV: There was just a house that some people lived in. It was nothing

had been restored. Nothing at that point in time.

PF: And at that time it was probably up on the property where the Baptist Home is now?

JV: It was. And they moved it, I don't know, 600 feet or something. It was a, you know, a pretty good project to move it.

PF: I remember that. We went to a ball they had there, you know, the Preservation Society. And everybody was dressed up, pouring rain, outhouses that they brought in. And the only electricity was like you do on a construction site, you know, they ran a cord from poles into the house. Everybody was in there dancing and it was the funniest thing, in a way. It was kind of hilarious, for a ball, but that was the first event they'd had there in years. That was when they first moved it down there.

JV: Yeah, I remember growing up you always hear-- Well, there was one of those historical markers down on Riverside Drive and I always remember hearing about the Richmond Pearson house, and Richmond Hill Inn, and other than what you read in books and stuff, I didn't know anything much about it till later on when they started restoring it.

PF: Well, I don't know so much about questions to ask you here. You're coming up with a lot and some of it I never knew. It's all new to, certainly, stories we've been getting. It's a different area, a different way of life and everything. So as time has gone on, what more changes do you see, or that you would comment on?

JV: Well, you look at a lot of building going on, particularly like apartments, like the ones out here they're building at the exit.

PF: Oh, yeah.

JV: Right down there. And, of course, there's Reynolds Village and several more, you know, around, and I see that as people doing a lot more

infill development. Even North Asheville, you see where they're building on smaller lots, really, but they just keep building. I see in the future, you know, they're going to have to do something about the highway system, because traffic's just unbearable already.

PF: Well, out there they keep talking about Future 26, but it doesn't seem anything's happening along that line.

JV: No, and it will be another-- It will be up about 2022 before they do anything. Their projection right now is for six lanes, 26 out to Weaverville. So, you know, they're going to add another lane going each way. But all that's going to be done about the same time everything else is going to be done, so it's going to be a mess. But we used to think, I can remember-- I grew up in Newbridge Church, but going top church in this old building down here, where the awning place was, and that's when they had a racetrack at Weaverville and traffic was bumper to bumper on those Sundays when they'd have those races, you know, and everybody thought that was the end of the world. Now we're right back to the same thing.

PF: Except you could see all the old cars when they went out there, too, I guess. One man that grew up in Weaverville, right next to the school, he was telling me about when they would stand in front of Shope's Furniture and watch them go out. And if it was a muddy day, they'd come back covered with mud and you couldn't tell who they belonged to.

JV: But, you know, you could just imagine before they built 26 what it was like, trafficwise.

PF: Another thing that he recounted was when they filmed Thunder Road. So you were kind of close to some of that, here, when they did around down at The Pines, some down there.

JV: Yeah, yeah. Well, and they did--when you're coming out of Asheville, and you're coming on, 26 coming this way, there was a street that went down, kind of followed the path of where Hill Street is now, but it was down below Hill Street, where the road is. And that's where they crashed the car into the service station, made a big explosion and fire and everything. Well, they did that right there and that was a big thing, everybody watching that. Some of it was done on North Market Street in a building. But, you know, people knew a lot of the people that were in that movie.

PF: Oh, local people.

JV: Local people, yeah. They did part of that at the old Sky Club. Some of it they did where Red Hoyle's office supply placed used to be, up on the second floor there. And, let's see, they did the Sky Club, that's where the bar scenes were. Let's see. I can't remember--oh, The Pines out there. They did that and then they did two other places around.

PF: Any other exciting things you can think of, things that were unique to the area?

JV: No, Asheville was just a, I guess just a big old country town, really, you know, for years and years back up to along about 1960, probably. Along about then is when they started doing the cross-town expressway. You know, what's 240 now. But that changed a lot of Asheville, particularly in the north, to the north side of town, the north side of the square. When it went across and, you know, came across Montford and Hillside and all those streets, you know, changed that community a lot.

PF: When did you get into the being the EMS person? When I think of you, I think of EMS and then later when you became mayor. Are you still mayor of Woodfin?

JV: Yeah.

PF: How long have you been mayor of Woodfin?

JV: I've been mayor for 14 years. And I started with the County as the EMS Director in December of 1972.

PF: That's amazing. It's wonderful that you are still with that.

JV: And I've enjoyed it.

PF: Oh, gosh. You could write a book right there.

JV: Yeah, sometimes you can think about that and think, "Why didn't I write all this stuff down", you know.

PF: How has that changed through the years, how it serves people, you know, as communications have grown, changed?

JV: Well, it started out, as far as requirements for somebody to ride on the ambulance-- When I started riding on a ambulance, funeral homes had ambulances.

PF: And you had worked for the funeral home.

JV: And I had worked a funeral home. So then, funeral homes, it was a losing proposition for them, so they get out of it, and it was a City/County operation for a while, from about 1968, I guess is when they started, and then the County eventually took it over. And then I started in December of '72 and at that time you didn't even have to have a first aid course, to be on that. And, you know, they didn't have anything like you have today. And it gradually came what it is today, which is really a high-tech operation.

PF: And now communications, I imagine that's changed that a lot.

JV: Oh, yeah. Communications, you know, you had radios but you didn't, there wasn't anything in a hurry to transmit an EKG to the hospital by radio, you know, none of that.

PF: Can they do that now? I didn't even know they could do that.

JV: Yeah, we can do that now, if we need to. I mean, we can do a lot of stuff like that. But it's really gone high tech and we've got, you know, computers on board all these ambulances and a lot of these heart monitors. When they first came out, those heart monitors, they cost about $5,000, and everybody thought, "My God, that's the end of the world". Now, then, they're $40,000, you know, but they're what they call a 12 lead, and once they get all those leads on, it will, you know, change-- I mean, it picks up anything and everything.

PF: Wow. In the ambulance.

JV: I mean, you got just about like a mobile emergency room now.

PF: I imagine it saves a lot of lives, especially with the heart. Well, a lot of things, probably. The sooner the better.

JV: Yeah, and they can contact the hospital and they know what's coming and all your vital signs.

PF: I didn't realize all that. I just think of them as transportation, I guess.

JV: Other than that, I can't think of, I mean, other than just the normal changes. Well, a little bit about down along the river. Up, let's see, if you came down from Pearson Bridge, there was a factory there that made soap. They made it from animal fats, rendered.

PF: Tallow, kind of?

JV: Tallow fat, out of the hides. And used that and then there was a-- can't remember what was next to it. But then you came on down to where Silverline Plastics is now. The end toward Asheville of that building, you can tell there's an older building, the brick part. Well, that was National Casket Company, and then where the bigger part of Silverline is, where the

office and stuff are, there was Carlon Pipe Company. You remember the hula hoops?

PF: Oh, yeah.

JV: That company made millions of those hula hoops.

PF: Somebody was probably goofing around one day and came up with that.

JV: Yeah, shipped them things all over the country.

PF: And they're still--I mean, you go down to the drum circle on Friday night, there's a bunch of them doing the hula hoop.

JV: And then as you came on down the river, on the lower end of Silverline, was Morgan Manufacturing, which was an older furniture plant. And they went out of business in the early seventies. Drexel bought that.

PF: Was that related to the Morgan that was the flyer? The Mississippi Belle?

JV: No, I don't think that was any of the same family. But then the Morgan Manufacturing was there and they made furniture. Once in a while you see a piece come through Johnny's or somewhere, that they made. And when they were tearing that building down, it was a two-story building, it caught fire. Burnt that up and burnt most of what Drexel had up, you know, one afternoon. Started about noon and then burnt all afternoon and all night, into the next day. But it was there. Then I guess that was it. Well, you came on down the river, before you got to Craggy Bridge, an old Farmers Federation up here. Don't know if you remember them or heard anything about them.

PF: Through the schools? They had programs and all that.

JV: The Farmers Federation was a group of farmers that they got together and had it where they could buy their seed and buy their supplies

and such. And they had places all over Western North Carolina. But they had a place there where you could buy feed and seed and different things like that. Where MSD's offices are, that was Carolina Power & Light's power plant.

PF: That's an interesting little area over there, where that industrial park is. Well, we may have covered it, unless your eyes are roaming down the thing over there. Is any of that considered North Asheville? I mean, it's north of Asheville, but it's out on the edge.

JV: North Asheville more or less really stops down here at Newbridge.

PF: Where does it end in that direction? Does it go clear to the river, would you think? Like Riverside Cemetery? Would you consider that North Asheville.

JV: Riverside Cemetery would be considered North Asheville. It more or less follows--I guess it follows, where it meets 26 and it gets to Broadway, you know, that would pretty much end it right there. Then you'd come across and pick up UNCA's property. Go over to Merrimon Avenue. But North Asheville, out on Merrimon Avenue, they had one big grocery store over there. The building is still sitting there, across the street from Asheville Cleaners. That was Giezentanner's Market, I think was the name of it. They were there for several years. I don't know if you remember Doris Giezentanner or not, who was County Commissioner for a while.

PF: I don't. There was a girl, a close friend of my third child, at North Buncombe, and her name was Giezentanner.

JV: That's probably Debbie.

PF: I'm not sure. That would have been in the eighties, maybe, early eighties.

JV: Hmmm. Might have been one of their children. Debbie, she's not quite as old as I am. She's on our Board of Aldermen here.

PF: Does she live on the other side of Woodland Hills? Or did she at one time?

JV: No, she lives on the--

PF: Well, I guess the father's name would have been Giezentanner.

JV: Let's see. If you go down to Weaverville Highway, and you get out there, if you get as far as the Log Cabin Restaurant, it's up on the hill across from--you go across the interstate. Go up there, that's where they live. her and her mother lives up there in two separate places. They've maybe got a cousin that lives there. Anyway, I think it was her uncle owned that Giezentanner's Market. Asheville Cleaners has been there for years and years and years. And coming on down Merrimon Avenue, there's a lot of houses in there that now is big businesses, but it was mostly residential.

PF: And so much of Asheville has become gentrified.

JV: Oh, yeah.

PF: Even the older smaller ones, you know, in the crowded streets. Here and there they're redoing those.

JV: And the golf course, then, was Beaver Lake Golf Club, of course, which I'm sure, you've been here 40 years, you remember that.

PF: Yeah.

JV: And, you know, they had their little office, was right there where the bird sanctuary is now, a little building sat right there.

PF: That was there, a little stone building. And one fellow, Paul Rifkin--

JV: Yeah. Yeah.

PF: He was telling an amusing story about when he would golf there as a child, his dad would take him there, and he made it real amusing about the caddies, you know, that they knew more than the golfers sometimes. It was so funny, him telling about it, how they were and everything. Well, I hate to end it. This is a lot of stuff I hadn't heard, all that broader area. My daughter, third child, she likes to kayak and we go down to Ledges Park and the park at the end of the--I guess Woodfin Park, along those areas.

JV: Right below Ledges Park is where they had that slide last night, that blocked the road down there.

PF: I didn't know that.

JV: They had a big slide down there about a quarter mile below there and it's going to take them about two weeks to get it cleared up. It was a monster of a slide.

PF: Last night. I must have been just waiting to go, because it wasn't that heavy a rain last night.

JV: No, right on the other side-- If you crawled up this big bank and went across the top of it up there, you'd be where that North Buncombe quarry is. And I imagine them dynamiting over time, you know, probably loosened it and it just turned loose.

PF: I'll have to tell Merry that.

JV: They's some rocks down there as big as cars.

PF: That's amazing. I guess it will bring more traffic over this way. If I go out to Marshall, I like to go that road and then I come back the other, Marshall Highway. I love that.

JV: Oh, one other thing that was in Woodfin was Old Craggy Prison. I guess you know where that is, the building is still sitting there.

PF: That was like it should have been in Thunder Road. It's something. I'm amazed more people don't film movies there.

JV: You know, the problem with that building, we've tried to get them to tear it down, but it's got so much asbestos in it, it would cost the State a fortune to tear it down. I mean, it would make a nice building site for something.

PF: Oh, yeah, it's a huge thing.

JV: You get up there where it's at and they've got a good view of the river. But that was Craggy Prison when I was growing up.

PF: Now, when did they close that, as a prison? They waited till they built the other one, I assume?

JV: Yeah, probably mid to late seventies, I guess. I know they had a prisoner set that thing on fire in the early seventies.

[Telephone break.]

PF: Well, gosh, all these things are interesting. I can remember probably 80 percent of these places on the river. And now an area that's getting exciting is down where they have the graffiti, down by the leather tanneries and stuff.

JV: Oh, yeah.

PF: I was kind of excited about it when one of my kids showed me that area. I was blown away by it, all that graffiti in there, how colorful. It didn't bother me, but it was abandoned at that time, but I don't know what will come now that businesses are there.

JV: When they did that, it made it look better than what it was.

PF: Yeah, and then it would change because more would go on top of the other and so on. And very well done, I mean, some of it is just incredible.

JV: Yeah, some of them are real artists.

PF: Yeah, a lot of skill involved, whether you like the art or not, is another questions. Yeah, there are two businesses open and in there now, so it will keep evolving.

JV: I imagine that several of those artists, the rent is going up, you know, and they're going to move. And I think what they are going to do is come this way.

PF: Well, they've kind of moved out to that Broadway intersection at the river.

JV: Down here where the Riverside Business Park is, they've got about 70 businesses in there, and they've got some artists in there. And there's another development going to occur along the river and then, you know, that where our greenway's going to come, right down the river. So I look for some of those people to head north.

PF: Yeah, a soon as the buildings start doing that. Yeah, you're right. And somebody was saying that, you know, now they're building some apartments also where Monticello crosses the Marshall Highway there, then going off. But then someone who lives out there forever said they can't go any further than that right now, even though it looks like the development would keep going, from the standpoint that that's as far as the utilities go, the water stops there.

JV: Yeah, that's an issue with Weaverville, what they're going to do in the future.

PF: Yeah, so then it becomes less people beyond that. If they're in Marshall, maybe they just get wells. Like our area, anything new going in, they have to have a well. We're on Woodfin water.

JV: Well, you know, Woodfin buys a lot of our water, particularly in the summers, from Asheville. Of course, their reservoir is not all that big.

PF: Now this area out here that was going to be a golf course and all, what's the latest on that? What is that going to do or be?

JV: That golf course, you know, that's one that the town had for a while. And that's something they never should have got in. We finally sold that piece of property, and it's just sitting there right now. But there's several people, from time to time they'll look at it, and they'll talk about patio homes, or apartments, or something. And there's a lot of that--that was where Asheville's last landfill was. But there's probably--there's over a hundred acres of it that was buffer property that you can build on. And it's been so long, you know have to worry about landfill gases coming up out of the, where they actually buried the garbage, anymore. So eventually somebody will-- There's a guy from Raleigh that owns that. And he wants to develop it, because he's a developer in Raleigh, and he says he just hasn't had time to fool with it. But, you know, that'd make a nice place. And eventually, our greenway will come from-- Anyways, right now it's protected, we go from Broadway, down to Asheville, and come down to MSD. But then we're going to swing around and follow Beaverdam Creek down here to Newbridge. And then the City will tie one on from Beaver Lake down to Elkwood Avenue, that will tie in to ours, then we'll have all that big building place.

PF: Oh, gosh, how nice. That would be a draw.

JV: But that greenway ought to come right up through the edge of that old golf course property, so that will enhance somebody, at some point.

PF: Well, and they always like walking at Beaver Lake, there's always people there, no matter what the weather.

JV: Yeah, my wife walks up there about three or four days a week.

PF: Yeah, it's a great area, especially now that they can go all the way around without going through down to Fresh Market and back. It's hard to walk on Lakeshore. Well, we might wind this up. You keep thinking of good things.

JV: Well, I think I've thought out.

PF: Okay. We'll end it there, then. Thank you so much. I really enjoyed it.

JV: Well, if I can help you anymore, just let me know. Just a minute. Wait right here. I want to go get something to show you.

[Jerry went to another room, returning with a framed map. Photo of map given to Pack Library.]

JV: Well, the Woodfin farm, which was what Nicholas Woodfin had, was all this property in here. If you look at this stuff, it's showing here Montford Avenue, different things. But you come up here, Charlotte Street and Chestnut Streets, it was a Civil War camp that was Camp Patton. If you look at different things, here's some breastworks that they had in here.

PF: Confederate hospital, armory site, public square.

JV: Stony Hill right there. Haywood Street, Patton Avenue.

PF: That's fantastic. Can I take a picture?

JV: Sure. There's Camp Jeter, you know. But nobody knew-- This was one of Bill Ramsey's auctions and there wasn't anybody wanting it. It was, you know, rolled up.

PF: This is the kind of thing the library, you know, the North Carolina Room. Do you know where I mean?

JV: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

PF: Do you know Zoe?

[Photographing map and interviewee.]

PF: That is amazing, absolutely amazing.

JV: Yeah, I couldn't believe that. And I was scared to death there would be somebody there that knew what it was. Best I remember, I paid ten dollars for it. I had it framed over here, but it was rolled up with a whole bunch of stuff.

PF: I like the way you have it framed, the black and the gold, too, very, very, very much. That is just-- Camp Jeter? Academy Street which was Montford Avenue. French Broad.

JV: Yeah, here's Beaucatcher Mountain.

PF: So they've combined-- Oh, legend. "Present day names", "Formerly called", "Confederate fortifications", "Federal Line of March", "Confederate Camps", "Broadway Turnpike". That's the little legend. "Woodfin Farm". So apparently that's what that was called where the Asheville--

JV: And all the property in here was the Woodfin farm.

PF: As far down as the botanical gardens.

JV: This right here, goes right to Broadway, this is Riverside Drive. That was the Buncombe Turnpike, followed right along Riverside Drive, you know, all the way up Broadway, and up through there. I've got a friend who's really big with the Confederate Veterans. And he didn't realize till I showed him this map, that these fortifications were on both sides of Broadway. The only ones he was ever familiar with was the part on the university side. But there were breastworks on the other side.

PF: Now, where are those? I've been in that Battle of Asheville place.

JV: If you-- Well, you know, from here, if you were going up Broadway, you know, you're looking on the left up through there, and that's where those breastworks were. You can still see the rubble kind of in the ground. But on this other side, where the creek ending is now, and coming on up where the, you know, the Forest Service has a building up there.

PF: Oh, yeah.

JV: All of that, they were in there. And he didn't realize that until he seen that map and then he got to checking and realized that-- I think that would be it right here.

PF: Are there remnants still there of it?

JV: No, I think they've been graded and all.

PF: Today they might have to preserve it and not knock it down. Oh, well, this is so, so neat. And it's so neatly done, like a draftsman did that, with India ink and so on. It's just delightful, too. Well, if you ever wanted to eventually donate it to the library, they would treasure it. They'd hang it just like it is.

JV: Someday I might. You never know.

PF: They may want to do a better copy, a scan or something, than just my photograph. But that is just lovely the way it's done. There's the artist's initials, "CED".

JV: "CED", whoever that was.

PF: Well, I'm glad you showed me that. [Disparate chatter.] This has been fun. Thank you so much.

END OF INTERVIEW